

Kingsbridge Town Council

NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2019

Present: Cllr Graham Price (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Lesley Healey (Kingsbridge Community Tennis)
Cllr Peter Ralph

In Attendance: Martin Johnson (Secretary)

19/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Dena Bex, David Dain, Robin Griffin, Lisa Miller and Verity Robinson.

Public Open Forum

There were no members of public present.

19/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

19/14 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Members received the notes of the last meeting held on 26 July 2019 which were approved as a correct record.

19/15 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION PLAN

15.1 Members noted that Kingsbridge had circa £22k in S.106 developer contributions for OSSR projects in accordance with South Hams District Council's (SHDC) report dated 12 November 2018. However, monies would be received for developments at K1 Trebblepark, K5 West Alvington Hill and Belle Hill if they came to fruition. The following reports were received for projects listed in the Kingsbridge OSSR plan 2018-2028:

- New football pitches. Nil further update from the previous meeting. Local football clubs would need to take a key role to realise new pitches currently earmarked for the former Belle Hill playing fields.
- Footpath to rugby club. Devon County Council (DCC) designated the access route from Derby Road as a footpath notwithstanding vehicular access for players/supporters and use by ambulances for the Devon Air Ambulance night landing site. The surface was in a poor condition however, only footpath maintenance was available. The club had been assisted recently by the Town Council (KTC) and may lobby DCC for action.
- Children's play space refits at Duncombe Park & Montagu Road. Anticipated completion by end November. KTC contribution from Capital Receipts reserve had been committed at £30k.

- Pond at Recreation Ground. Cllr Price and the Town Clerk had recently discussed with SHDC which reported little enthusiasm for a pond refit and had included filling-in the pond as a solution to its current unsatisfactory condition. Conversely, Members wished the pond to be retained and enhanced.
- Bmx/dirt bike track at Rack Park amenity space. During the above conversation, SHDC recognised the potential for this project however, the risk factor was a key element and a track proposal should be worked up for younger children. Regional points of contact for advice were available to KTC.
- New clubhouse at Recreation Ground. Kingsbridge Community Tennis had been awarded Awards For All funding at £10k to manage a consultation for a new community hub in the park. South Hams CVS would assist and an initial meeting had been arranged for 28 November to determine the way forward. Members noted that Quayside Leisure Centre and the Library were good locations to conduct public consultations.
- New skatepark. SHDC had identified either the current Treblepark amenity area or the Recreation Ground grassed area adjacent to Derby Road as potential locations for a new skatepark and would review these land areas to ascertain what was possible. There were several good examples of skateparks in the region e.g. Ashburton, Bovey Tracey and Chudleigh.
- Town centre public realm improvements. Progressing with MeiLocci landscape architects with ambitions for some tangible results by financial year end in March 2020. The concept included a pocket park at Fore Street Car Park.
- Kingsbridge-Salcombe multi-use trail. Feedback on the draft feasibility study had been received from Salcombe TC, Malborough PC and West Alvington PC. Sustrans final report was anticipated shortly.
- Community orchard at Wallingford Road amenity space. Tree planting was being much encouraged across the UK and SHDC Grounds Maintenance would be requested to consider the proposal.
- Church Street Amenity Space. A recent report from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) had been critical about planting and street furniture. It was **RECOMMENDED** for KTC to undertake repairs and repainting of the children's wooden animals.

15.2 Briton's Field access footpath (project brought forward from previous financial year 2018/19). Works by SHDC were anticipated to commence before end 2019.

15.3 Budget for financial year 2019/20 at £3k and project proposal. It was **RECOMMENDED** to fund feasibility studies for: a pond refit in the Recreation Ground, bmx/dirt bike track at Rack Park amenity space and/or a new skatepark.

15.4 The annual review of the Kingsbridge OSSR plan would be considered by the next meeting of the committee in January 2020. After discussion, it was **RECOMMENDED** for KTC to identify OSSR projects for S.106 contributions when feedback was provided to SHDC on relevant planning applications.

19/16 DUNCOMBE PARK & RECREATION GROUND

16.1 Recreation Ground "Love Your Park" event for August 2020. KTC had received numerous requests for the fun day to become an annual event following its

inaugural success on Sunday 11 August. The budget for the event was £1k however, total expenditure had been over £1.5k notwithstanding sound negotiations! It was **RECOMMENDED** to hold a Love Your Park event in August 2020 and to provide a budget at £2k.

16.2 Recreation Ground Bowling Club. Nil report however, it was known that the group had outstanding lease issues with SHDC.

16.3 Recreation Ground Café Decks. Nil report however, it was known that the café operator had outstanding lease issues with SHDC. There had been some petty vandalism recently which the Police had investigated.

16.4 Recreation Ground Community Tennis. The group did not have a lease for the tennis courts despite hastening SHDC. This would be an essential element for moving forward the community hub concept. The group had over 100 members and had enjoyed a good summer, including open days, and the floodlights allowed evening play. Saturday morning sessions had been provided for younger children with qualified coaches.

16.5 Recreation Ground Green Flag. Won for the 7th year in a row which was a huge achievement and it remained the only Green Flag park in the district. However, the award could not be taken for granted and much work and additional amenity value was required to sustain the park at this standard. SHDC and KTC had already discussed the way forward e.g. review of the management plan. Taking stock of the assessment feedback, it was **RECOMMENDED** to clean and re-oil seating, repaint Trim Trail exercise equipment, repaint the base of the table tennis table and explore dual-use putting and croquet for the lawn; alongside keen liaison with SHDC to work towards a potential Green Flag award for 2020.

16.6 Duncombe Park & Recreation Ground play equipment. Nil particular matters.

16.7 Duncombe Park suggestion for wildflower areas. SHDC permission would be required and therefore a plan was needed; the Town Clerk would discuss with local residents.

19/17 TREE TRAIL

17.1 Tree planting. Replacement trees around the head of the estuary had been ordered by SHDC; requirements for tree maintenance and pruning had been noted.

17.2 Tree labelling and sponsorship. Secured by Kingsbridge In Bloom; style and content to be worked up.

19/18 GRASS VERGE CUTS & WEED SPRAYS

The grass verge cutting schedule for 7 cuts per annum via SHDC had gone well to date with one cut outstanding which had been programmed for March 2020. Weed spraying was actioned twice per annum by KTC's grounds maintenance contractor. The budget also allowed for ad hoc vegetation cuts to be undertaken e.g. along the Cookworthy Road. It was **RECOMMENDED** to retain the current programme for

highways grass verge cutting and to action 2 weed sprays in readiness for summer 2020 i.e. late 2019 and April 2020.

19/19 KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM

KIB had enjoyed another successful year winning Gold at the RHS' South West in Bloom and National Champion of Champions competitions. KIB wished to build on this success and noted the judges' report which provided advice to move forward. Ambitions included making use of the water fountain plinth in Quay House grounds, a willow or wrought iron horse for the haycart, public art, sculpture and addressing any matters from 2019.

19/20 PARKS & OPEN SPACES BUDGET FOR FY 2020/21

It was **RECOMMENDED** for a budget at circa £20k to be realised for a pond refit and bmx track from the Precept and/or Capital Receipts reserve.

19/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 25 October 2019 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.